

May 6, 1975

SENATOR BURBACH: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, there have been many favorable comments made about LB 571 and I would like to second that motion of those things that have already been said. I would like to add just a little bit more to what has been said by saying this is a bill that's extremely important to all the rural legislators and we would appreciate any cooperation that the urban legislators might give to a family doctor practice which is the end result of LB 571. I would urge all the members to give it very serious consideration, especially all the members of the rural makeup of this body. I think that all of the other areas have been covered and I would urge favorable consideration of LB 571.

PRESIDENT: Senator Richard Lewis.

SENATOR LEWIS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I don't think there is anyone who has anymore concern for the lack of medical services that exist in outstate Nebraska and I probably will support this bill, but I don't want anyone to labor under the misinformed concept that this will immediately provide physicians for outstate Nebraska because I think I would have concur with Senator Schmit, that when you have saturated the needs of metropolitan and urban areas, then perhaps you're going to get physicians out there. I think that this is a step in the right direction and I would hope that it would be possible in some manner for the people who direct the activities of the medical college to have a family practice residency outstate. I think that would be do more in a lesser rate of time than anything we could do to provide physicians outstate because it hasn't been brought out here, but all of these family practice residencies, as I understand it, will be in Omaha and Lincoln and I can't see any mass exodus of physicians into the rural areas under this type of an arrangement.

PRESIDENT: Senator Anderson.

SENATOR ANDERSON: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I'll be very brief because I think most of the arguments for this have already been stated. I simply would like to indicate that I do support this bill for many of the same reasons that have already been stated. I think this is the most potentially successful means of addressing ourselves to the problem of people in outstate Nebraska not being able to get physicians in their areas. I think one other factor here from the standpoint of the medical school itself is that in terms of recruiting the residents and recruiting these people that come in. They normally do this in the month of January and if we can adopt this bill which can set a definite policy for what the State of Nebraska is going to support so that they know in January how many residents, residencies are going to be available and do not have to wait until March or April or May when the budget is passed. I think this is a bill that should be passed because I think it does address itself to an extremely important need in outstate Nebraska.